

MEXICAN WOLF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT WORK GROUP
INTERAGENCY FIELD TEAM UPDATE
JULY 28, 2008 (REVISED JULY 30, 2008)

Vacancies and Hirings:

NMDGF Field Team Leader—Vacant (Formerly Ken Mills), James Waddle NMDGF Technician (Started May 7), Ryan Gordon—USFWS Detailed Biologist (July), Annmarie Houser USFWS Biologist (Arriving August 4), Rebecca Mowry USFWS Volunteer (left project July 25), Alison Greenleaf USFWS Volunteer (joined project on June 10), Cheyenne Burnett USFWS Volunteer (Arriving August 4), Mike Sumner AGFD Acting Field Team Leader (left project on July 11), Chris Bagnoli AGFD Acting Field Team Leader (joined project on July 12).

Depredations and Nuisance Responses Second Quarter 2008:

<u>Report Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type of Incident</u>	<u>Determination</u>
04-22-08	O Bar O Canyon, NM	Dead Cow	Confirmed uncollared wolves
04-27-08	V + T Lake, NM	Dead Calf	Confirmed coyote depredation
04-29-08	FAIR	Yearling Cow	Confirmed wolf depredation. Depredation incident assigned to uncollared wolves.
04-30-08	FAIR	Yearling Cow	Confirmed coyote depredation
04-30-08	FAIR	Two Dead Yearling Cows	Confirmed wolf depredation. Depredation incident assigned to uncollared wolves.
05-06-08	V + T Lake, NM	Injured Cow	Confirmed coyote depredation
05-07-08	FAIR	Dead cow and yearling	Confirmed wolf depredation. Depredation incident assigned to uncollared wolves.
05-12-08	Railroad Canyon, NM	Wolf adjacent to house.	Confirmed wolf tracks of single uncollared animal
05-13-08	Eagle Peak, NM	Two dead cows.	1 barbed wire caused and 1 unknown
05-15-08	Eagle Peak, NM	Dead cow	Confirmed black bear depredation
05-16-08	FAIR	Dead cow	Cause of death unknown
05-19-08	Sand Flat, NM	Dead calf	Cause of death unknown

<u>Report Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type of Incident</u>	<u>Determination</u>
05-21-08	Railroad Canyon, NM	Injured calf	Confirmed wolf attack, calf survived, depredation incident not assigned
05-26-08	Railroad Canyon, NM	Wolf adjacent to house.	Confirmed wolf tracks of single uncollared animal. Same residence as 5-12-08 incident.
06-05-08	Alpine, AZ	Dead Calf	Confirmed coyote depredation
06-05-08	Collins park, NM	Injured Calf	Confirmed black bear depredation
06-08-08	Collins park, NM	Dead Calf	Cause of death unknown, not wolf related
06-09-08	Greer, AZ	Dead Calf	Cause of death from unknown natural causes
06-14-08	Alpine, AZ	Dead Calf	Confirmed coyote depredation
06-14-08	Greer, AZ	One dead cow, two dead Calves	Unknown and natural causes
06-18-08	Alpine, AZ	Dead Cow	Unknown natural causes
06-27-08	Gallo Lake, NM	Dead Cow.	Confirmed wolf-caused depredation. Depredation incident assigned to San Mateo Pack AF903 and AM1114.
06-30-08	Dragoon, AZ	Injured goat	Confirmed coyote caused injuries
06-30-08	Gallo Lake, NM	Dead Yearling cow.	Cause of death unknown, black bear feeding on carcass
06-30-08	North of Luna, NM	Dead calf	Cause of death unknown
07-05-08	Corduoy Draw, NM	Dead calf	Confirmed wolf-caused depredation. Depredation incident assigned to an uncollared wolf.
07-10-08	East Sand Flat, NM	Dead calf	Confirmed bear-caused depredation
07-12-08	North of Big Lake, AZ	Fatal injuries to a Sheep	Probable bear-caused depredation
07-13-08	East Sand Flat, NM	Dead calf	Probable wolf depredation. AM1114 in the area

<u>Report Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type of Incident</u>	<u>Determination</u>
07-15-08	FAIR	Dead calf	Confirmed wolf-caused depredation. Depredation incident assigned to the entire Lofer Pack.
07-16-08	Deep Creek Divide, NM	Three injured calves	Two calves confirmed wolf-caused injuries, one was a probable wolf-caused injuries. No depredation incidents have been assigned because the calves are still alive.
7-16-08	T Bar Grassland	One dead cow	Confirmed wolf-caused depredation. Depredation incident assigned to one uncollared wolf.

Mortalities in the Second Quarter 2008:

AF1112 of the Elk Mountain Pack was discovered dead on 4-21-08 in New Mexico. Necropsy results revealed that this wolf died as the result of gunshot. AM1045 was considered fate unknown. Thus, the Elk Mountain Pack is considered defunct. This case is under investigation.

F1113 (dispersing yearling from the Bluestem Pack) was found dead on 04-30-08 in Arizona. Necropsy results revealed that the cause of death was gunshot. This case is under investigation.

AM583 of the Luna Pack was found dead on 5-13-08 in New Mexico. Necropsy results failed to reveal a cause of death. AM583 was the only collared member of the Luna Pack. This case is under investigation.

Uncollared AF758 of the Paradise Pack was found dead on 6-7-08 near the den site in Arizona. Necropsy results failed to reveal a cause of death. This case is under investigation.

Two pups (1116 and 1117) from the Paradise Pack were found on 6-8-08 near the den site in Arizona. Necropsy results failed to reveal a cause of death. This case is under investigation.

AF1111 of the Fox Mountain Pack was found dead on 6-24-08. Necropsy results indicated that AF1111 died as a result of gunshot. This case is under investigation.

Trapping Activities Second Quarter 2008:

The IFT was attempting to trap and place a second collar in the Paradise Pack in early June and captured and re-collared AM795 of the Paradise Pack on 6/3/08.

The IFT captured a yearling wolf, F1118 in the Luna Pack territory on 6/14/08. The locations since the capture indicated that F1118 was using the old Luna Pack territory. The IFT spent

considerable time finding sign and adding a collar to this pack following the death of AM583 (the only collared member of the pack).

Outreach Activities Second Quarter 2008:

April AMWG meeting in Safford AZ; 14 non-agency attendees.

July 1, Mike Sumner and Colby Gardner gave a project overview to 9 students and instructors from the Cottonwood Gulch Foundation.

IFT members presented information at the Big Lake Visitor Center to forest visitors on June 7 and June 28. On July 25, Colby Gardener and Beth Orning-Tschampl gave a project overview to approximately 40 adults and children at the Big Lake Visitor center.

2007 End of Year Count:

- 35 wolves observed during survey
- Ten wolves captured (six new collars; four replaced)
- Population estimate ≥ 52 wolves
- 12 packs (ten of which consist of at least one wild-born member)
- Four breeding pairs**
- ≥ 27 pups born, ≥ 9 survived through December 31st
- 11 pairs formed on their own in the wild
- 46 wild born wolves
- Two packs produced second generation wild born pups. As many as ten could do so in 2008.

**Defined as an adult male and an adult female with at least two pups produced during the previous breeding season that survived until December 31 of the year of their birth

2008 Population Information:

The following packs have had confirmed pups during 2008: Bacho, Paradise, Hawk's Nest, Rim, Fox Mountain, and Dark Canyon. In addition, the Middle Fork Pack likely has pups, but the IFT has been unable to confirm the pups to date. Status of San Mateo, Bluestem, Luna and Lofer packs is unknown relative to production of pups.

Other IFT Activities:

The Laredo Pack (AM1008 and AF1028) self released from a mesh pen at McKenna Park on 6/19/08. The Laredo Pack remained in the area of the release until 6/30/08 when they were located 9 miles east on the West Fork of the Gila River. The IFT monitored the wolves from July 1 to July 28 and hazed the wolves from campgrounds in the area when they moved through at night. The pair has not caused any damage and has responded to hazing by moving out of the area. However, the Laredo Pack continues to move back into the area of campgrounds late at night. Defenders of Wildlife personnel and the IFT have cooperated to establish fladry around goats with kits and hound dogs in the area. The IFT will continue monitoring and hazing efforts.